

**Remarks**

Claims 12-21 are under final rejection pursuant to 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement, and pursuant to 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The phrase “when a system or component failure occurs” has now been changed by amendment to the following:

“when there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network interface facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.”

The replacement language now provides a more definite recitation of various types of system or component failures that create a need for a safety life line. There is more than adequate support in the specification for these types of failures in exemplary locations such as the interface access module 70, the intelligent services director 22, and the customer premise equipment 10. Such failures and the related backup life line connection as recited in the amended claims will be clearly understood by those skilled in the art. There is an erroneous reference in the Office Action to a possible “line card failure” that requires clarification. As correctly recited in independent claims 12, 20 and 21, the line cards provide the life line backup when other system or component failures occur.

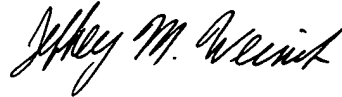
All of the claims are now in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112. The Examiner is earnestly requested to enter the amendments, and withdraw the rejections based on the first and second paragraphs of 35 USC 112.

There is a reference in the Office Action to the phrase “said subscriber link” that is recited in claims 15 and 21. Although no explanation appears in the Office Action, an amendment has been made to clarify any concerns by reciting the “multiple access subscriber link”. This replacement phrase has antecedent basis in the claim preamble.

The Examiner is requested to enter the amendment in order to eliminate any possible basis for rejection.

Applicants have made a full response to the rejection in the final office action in order to advance this case to issuance. Entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 12-21 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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